



For Immediate Release

From: Elizabeth A. Goodrich, *Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor*;

Chair, Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)

Introduction of the TCLCFRT and presentation of preventable child fatality trends in Tippecanoe County to the public

The Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)

On July 1, 2013, a new Indiana law (IC 16-49) went into effect, requiring child fatality review teams in each county, with coordination and support for these teams to be provided by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). Prior to this, the local child fatality review teams fell under the auspices of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick K. Harrington is responsible for establishing the team in Tippecanoe County.

The TCLCFRT review all deaths of children under the age of 18 that are sudden, unexpected or unexplained, all deaths that are assessed by DCS, all deaths that are determined to be the result of homicide, suicide, accident, or are ruled undetermined by a coroner.

The TCLCFRT classifies the details of these deaths, identify trends, and inform efforts to implement effective strategies designed to prevent injuries, disability, and death for our children. By working together to understand the circumstances involved in a child's death, we can make Indiana a healthier and safer place for our children.

The 12 TCLCFRT members include representatives from the following:

The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, County Coroner's Office, County Health Department, Department of Child Services, Lafayette Police Department, GLASS, IU Health Arnett, Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Services, West Lafayette Fire Department, Wabash Valley Alliance, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and a Forensic Pathologist.

TCLFRT Vision

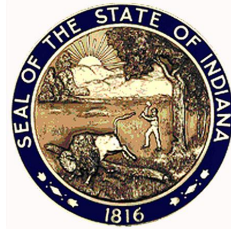
Understanding the circumstances causing a child's death will help prevent other deaths, poor health outcomes, and injury or disability in other children.

Mission Statement

The Local Child Fatality Review Team will, through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child fatalities, attempt to better understand how and why children die and use the team's findings to take action to help prevent future deaths and improve the health and safety of Indiana's children.

Goals

- ☐ Ensure the accurate identification and uniform, consistent reporting of the cause and manner of every child death
- ☐ Improve communication and linkages among local and state agencies and enhance coordination of efforts
- ☐ Improve agency responses in the investigation of child deaths
- ☐ Improve agency response to protect siblings and other children in the homes of deceased children
- ☐ Improve criminal investigations and the prosecution of child homicides
- ☐ Improve delivery of services to children, families, providers and community
- ☐ Identify significant risk factors and trends in child deaths
- ☐ Identify and advocate for needed changes in policy and practices and expanded efforts in child health and safety to prevent future child deaths
- ☐ Increase public awareness and advocacy for the issues that affect the health and safety of children



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**Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)
Public Forum on Child Fatalities in Tippecanoe County**

The Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT) will hold a forum open to the public to present emerging trends in child fatalities in Tippecanoe County, prevention strategies and provide community resources to the public.

Date: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

Time: 9:00am

Location: Tippecanoe County Office Building

Tippecanoe Room

20 North 3rd Street

Lafayette, IN

All members of the communities are invited to attend

Representatives from the TCLCFRT will be on hand to answer your questions. TCLCFRT members include the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, County Coroner's Office, County Health Department, Department of Child Services, Lafayette Police Department, GLASS, IU Health Arnett, Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Services, West Lafayette Fire Department, Wabash Valley Alliance, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and a Forensic Pathologist.

TCLFRT will present critical data and dangerous trend identified from the review of child fatalities in Tippecanoe County, specifically on the safe sleeping practices for children.

Let's work together to protect our children and stop preventable child deaths in Tippecanoe County!

PLEASE JOIN US ON JANUARY 27, 2015